

NEWS

For Immediate Release

United States
Department
of Agriculture

Forest Service

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THUNDERSTORMS SPARK SEVERAL SMALL FIRES ON CIBOLA NATIONAL FOREST

Albuquerque, June 7, 2006 - Firefighters were successful in containing several small lightning started fires on the Magdalena, Sandia and Mountainair Ranger Districts of the Cibola National Forest. These fires are all about one acre or less.

On the Magdalena Ranger District the “Main” fire in the Datil Mountains (east Main Canyon) is the largest fire on the Cibola National Forest at this time. This fire is approximately 40 acres and was reported on June 6 at approximately 2:30pm. Firefighters stayed on the fire overnight with additional resources now arriving to assist with fire suppression efforts.

On the Mountainair Ranger District the lightning caused “Anderson” fire which started on June 6 is approximately 3 acres and about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile southeast of Capilla Peak. The electronics sites at the ridge top of the Manzano Mountains are being threatened due to the steepness of the terrain. The fire is burning in heavily wooded Ponderosa Pine and Mixed Conifer. Firefighters are working to reinforce lines with support from a heavy helitanker and airtanker.

The Cibola National Forest would like to remind forest visitors that many portions of the Cibola National Forest are still in partial closure. “With the current hot and dry weather, fire danger remains **extreme** and warrants keeping a number of areas closed to visitors.” Cibola National Forest Supervisor Nancy Rose said.

For more information contact Mark Chavez, Cibola National Forest Supervisor’s Office at 505-346-3900 or one of the following district offices:

- Sandia Ranger District, 505-281-3304
- Mountainair Ranger District, 505-847-2990
- Magdalena Ranger District, 505-854-2281
- Mt. Taylor Ranger District, 505-287-8833
- Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands, 505-374-9652

Additional fire information for the Southwest Area is available at <http://www.nmfireinfo.com/>.

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